



# How to Use National Archives of Sweden Website, Riksarkivet, for Genealogy and Family History

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The National Archives of Sweden, Riksarkivet has roots back to the 1200s and was established by the government on October 16, 1618. Riksarkivet has a wide variety of records and documents that serve many different purposes at the national, regional, county, and local level. They have around 100,000 maps and drawings from 1697 – 1993. As of 2023, Riksarkivet has about 75 Swedish miles (465 US miles) of records on shelves in 10 locations. About 5% of collections are accessible online through the Digital Research Room. The military archive was incorporated into Riksarkivet in 1995. In 2010, the regional archives (which previously functioned independently) were combined with Riksarkivet.

The main task of Riksarkivet is to ensure that the public archives are gathered and preserved for the future. It is also responsible to provide access to records in-person<sup>1</sup>, or online<sup>2</sup>.

## 1. Account

Riksarkivet provides access to digital copies of records online for free. Logged-in access is not always required, but creating an account is recommended for the following reasons:

- a. Some records require sign-in due to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).
- b. Riksarkivet will keep a history of 50 records that you have opened for your convenience. The history is found through **My pages** in the upper right corner of the **Digital Research Room** page and then click on **Opened volumes** at <https://sok.riksarkivet.se/mina-sidor>.
- c. Many records have not been digitized but you can monitor them, meaning you can click on **Notify me** from their online catalog (National Archives Database<sup>3</sup>) and you will receive an email notification when the volume is digitized. To see the list of records that you monitor click on **Monitored volumes** at <https://sok.riksarkivet.se/mina-sidor>.
- d. An account is required to purchase anything from their online store.

To create an account, click on **Sign in** at the upper right corner of the main page. Scroll down to the bottom and click on **Create user account**.

Riksarkivet has an enormous number of records. The main ways of accessing records online are through the **Digital Research Room** and the **National Archives Database** also known as NAD.

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<sup>1</sup> Archive locations, <https://riksarkivet.se/visit-the-archives>

<sup>2</sup> There are multiple ways to access records. The easiest ways are using the Digital Research Room at <https://sok.riksarkivet.se/digitala-forskarsalen> and the National Archives Database at <https://sok.riksarkivet.se/nad>.

<sup>3</sup> National Archives Database, <https://sok.riksarkivet.se/nad>

To find the Digital Research Room:

- Go to <https://sok.riksarkivet.se/>
- Click on **Other Languages** in the upper right corner of the screen and then on **English**. You may have to do this multiple times while using the website.
- Under the heading **Search the collections**, click on the tab **Digital Research Room** (either at the top next to Start or under the heading)

The other way to access records is through the National Archives Database (NAD), which I will discuss at the end of this presentation.

For the rest of this presentation, I will start with the records that you will use the most, Church records, Mantals, and Estate Inventory records. Then I'll switch to Military and Statistiska centralbyrån (SCB) records, historic maps, and finish with the online catalog National Archives Database, NAD.

## 2. How to Find Church Records on Riksarkivet

There are multiple ways to find digital copies of the church records on Riksarkivet. The easiest way is by going to the Digital research room at <https://sok.riksarkivet.se/digitala-forskarsalen>, find the heading **Archive** on the left side of the screen and then:

- a. Type the name of the parish in the **Archive/parish** field. You must use the Swedish letters Å, Ä, and Ö as needed.
- b. Choose the **County** from the dropdown list. Although this step is not required, sometimes there are parishes by the same name in multiple counties.
- c. Click **Search**.

After the page reloads, look for a link with the name of the parish and the word **kyrkoarkiv** (church archive). To the right there should be a laptop image to indicate some of the collection is accessible online. Click on the **name of the parish** link, and you will see a list of all the records for this parish. Click on the **name of the record**, then on the volume you need, then on the grey link under **Reproducerad på**, and on the word **Image** to begin searching the volume.

You can also find church records:

- d. From the **Digital Research Room** page, click on **Databases**, find the **Scanned column**, and click on **Church archives**. Type the name of the parish in the **Archive/parish** field. When the page reloads, click on the link with the **name of the parish kyrkoarkiv**. Find the record type, the volume you need, and click on the word **Image**. Direct link: <https://sok.riksarkivet.se/kyrkoarkiv>
- e. From the **Digital Research Room** page, click on **National Archives Database** tab (it's one of the 4 tabs at the top). Type the name of the parish in the **Search archives** field and click **Search**. Click on the **name of the parish kyrkoarkiv** with the laptop image. Find the record type, the volume you need, and click on the grey link under

*Reproducerad på.* Then click **Image** to begin searching the volume. Direct link: <https://sok.riksarkivet.se/nad>.

### 3. How to Find Mantals Tax Records on Riksarkivet

- a. From the **Digital Research Room** page, click on **Topics**, find, and click on the word **Taxes** on the list. Click on the link called **Mantalslängder 1642-1820 Register of population 1642-1820**. Choose a **County** from the drop-down list, then type the name of the parish in the **Parish** field and click **Search**. Find the year that you need and click on the **Image** icon. Direct link: <https://sok.riksarkivet.se/mantalslangder>.
- b. From the **Digital Research Room** page, click on **Alphabetical list**, find section **M**, and click on the words **Mantalslängder 1642-1820 Register of population 1642-1820**.

### 4. How to Find Estate Inventories on Riksarkivet

- a. Use the searchable database by going to the **Digital Research Room** page, click on **Databases**, find the **Databases with transcribed material column**, and click on **Inventory of estates**. Fill in the search boxes to see if they have information about the ancestor of interest. Click on **More options** for additional filters and click **Search**. Click on the names from the hit list. Digital copies of the original are available if a computer monitor icon is present. The database includes most areas of Sweden, the earliest entry is from 1622 and the latest is from 2001. The database is not complete. Direct link: <https://sok.riksarkivet.se/bouppteckningar>.  
Keep in mind that estate inventories created from 1980 - 2001 are available at the archive reading room, or by requesting it at <https://bestall.riksarkivet.se/sv/bouppteckning-fran1980>.
- b. From the **Digital Research Room** page, click on **Topics**, and then on **Inventory of estates**. This page has a variety of links that point to inventory of estate collections, registers, and databases. Direct link: <https://sok.riksarkivet.se/amnesomrade?infosida=amnesomrade-bouppteckningar>.
- c. From the **Digital Research Room** page, click on the **National Archives Database** tab. Type the name of the judicial district or city court in the **Search archives** field (e.g., Ljunits) and click **Search**. Click on the name of the **judicial district häradsrätts arkiv** with the laptop image. Find the series **Flla Bouppteckningar. Huvudserie** and click on the volume you need. Click on the grey link under *Reproducerad på* to begin searching the volume. Direct link: <https://sok.riksarkivet.se/nad>.

### 5. Military Databases and Resources on Riksarkivet

- a. **Military Sources**  
From the **Digital Research Room** click on **Topics** and then on **Military**. This opens to a page of 111 links on a wide variety of subjects. The Swedish military created a tremendous number of records, documents, and maps. Of the 111 links, here are

some key ones that you will use the most. Direct link:

<https://sok.riksarkivet.se/amnesomrade?infosida=amnesomrade-militaria>.

b. Grill (*Statistiskt sammandrag af svenska indelningsverket*)

The Statistical Summary of The Swedish Allotment System (*Statistiskt sammandrag af svenska indelningsverket*) by Claes Lorentz Grill, published 1855-1858. These books have been indexed into a searchable database. They help to find rusthåll, residence, rotar, companies, and regiments in the muster rolls. Click on **Indelningsverket (Grill)**, then choose the name of the **County** and the **Parish** from drop down menus and click **Search**. Direct link: <https://sok.riksarkivet.se/grill>.

c. Army General Muster Rolls

Under the heading **Rolls**, click on the link **Generalmönsterrullor General Muster Rolls**. Choose the regiment from the drop-down menu. After the page reloads, choose the company and then the year that you need. From here, you browse the images to find the soldier. Direct link: <https://sok.riksarkivet.se/generalmonsterrullor>.

d. Navy Muster Rolls

Under the heading **Rolls**, click on the link **Rullor flottan och Sjöexpeditioner, skeppsmönsterrullor Rolls and Naval expeditions**. Click on the **Type of document** drop-down menu and choose **Rullor flottan**. Enter a span of years in the **Year** fields and click **Search**. The navy organized their forces into regional units called Stations. Karlskrona Station was created in 1773. Stockholm Station and Göteborg Stations were created in 1824 and all three ended when the Navy reorganized in the 1950s. The navy created a variety of other rolls for different purposes such as Non-commissioned officers (Underofficersrullor), Rolls for young sailor boys (Rullor skeppsgossekompanier), Rolls for seaman companies (Rullor matroskompanier), Rolls of units in Finland (Finska rullor), and navigators and civil workers in pilot service (Lotsrullor) among others. Direct link: <https://sok.riksarkivet.se/flottans-arkiv>

You can learn more about the Swedish military at Hans Högman's Swedish Military site at <http://www.hhogman.se/militaria.htm>, and the Sweden Military Jurisdictions page in the FamilySearch Wiki at:

[https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Swedish\\_Military\\_Jurisdictions\\_for\\_Family\\_History\\_Research](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Swedish_Military_Jurisdictions_for_Family_History_Research).

## 6. Statistics Sweden Data (Statistiska centralbyrån Data)

a. Scanned: SCB births, marriages and deaths 1860-1949

From the **Digital Research Room, Databases** tab, and under the **Scanned** column, click on **SCB births, marriages, and deaths 1860-1949**. This is where you can find the birth, marriage, and death extracts created by the Statistiska centralbyrån (SCB). The information was extracted from the ministerial books. This is helpful if the parish archive has gaps or records were destroyed between 1860 and 1949.

To search, type the name of the parish in the **Parish** field and then choose a **County** from the drop-down list. Click **Search** and select the year and volume by clicking on the word **Image**. Direct link: <https://sok.riksarkivet.se/scb-fodda-vigda-doda>

b. Databases with transcribed material: Census

From the **Digital Research Room**, **Databases** tab, and in the **Databases with transcribed material** column, click on **Census**. This is where you can search the SCB extracts from household examination-congregation records for the years 1860, 1870, 1880, 1890, 1900, 1910, and 1930. These extracts were created every 10 years. They represent a “snapshot” of the respective year. Although Riksarkivet calls these censuses, the original information came from household examination or congregation records. Direct link: <https://sok.riksarkivet.se/folkrakningar>

To search, fill in the **First name**, **Last name**, **Birth year**, **Birth parish** (and or) **Home parish** into the respective fields, and then click **Search**. You can search by using all the fields or very few fields as necessary e.g., if the ancestor changed their last name as an adult, leave the Last name blank. After the page reloads, click on the name of the individual to see the indexed data.

## 7. Other Interesting Databases

a. Released Prisoners

This is where you can search prisoner files with photographs from various prisons in Sweden from 1876 - 1939. From the **Digital Research Room**, click on **Databases**, under **Databases with transcribed material**, click on **Released prisoners**. Enter the **First name**, **Last name**, **Birth year**, and click **Search**. Click on the prisoner's name from the hits list and then on **Image**.

Direct link: <https://sok.riksarkivet.se/frigivna-straffarbetsfanger>

b. Rosenberg's geographical dictionary

The gazetteer Geografiskt-Statistiskt handlexikon öfver Sverige from 1882 – 1883 has been indexed into a searchable database. It has about 66,000 place names that is good, given the historical context, but it is limited for practical research. Nonetheless, a historical gazetteer might be helpful. From the **Digital Research Room**, click on **Databases**, under **Databases with transcribed material**, click on **Rosenberg's geographical dictionary**. Type a place name into the **Free text** field. Choose a **Parish**, **Judicial district**, or **County** and click **Search**. Alternatively, you can simply choose a county and parish for a list of place names in a specific parish. Direct link: <https://sok.riksarkivet.se/rosenberg>

## 8. Maps

If you are looking for historic maps, the easiest way is from the **Digital Research Room**, and click on **Alphabetical list** or the **A-Ö** tab from the tabs across the top of the page. Once there, you can search by doing a **Ctrl + F** and type the letters “**kart**” to look for maps. From this list, find and click on **Krigsarkivets kart-och ritningssamlingar** (the Military Archives map and drawing collections). Click on the **Archive** drop down menu to see the wide variety of collections in this category. Direct link: <https://sok.riksarkivet.se/krigsarkivets-kartsamlingar>

Another important map collection is Sveriges äldsta storskaliga kartor. These are 12,000 maps used for taxation from the 1600s. From the **A-Ö** tab, scroll down to the **S** section and click on **Sveriges äldsta storskaliga kartor**. For some reason this page is not offered in English at the top. Direct link: <https://riksarkivet.se/geometriska>

To search for a specific map, click on **Visa kartsamlingarna**. Look for the province (Landskap) of interest and then click on a link of interest. Direct link: <https://riksarkivet.se/visa-kartsamlingar> Once it opens, navigate for the place you are looking for by using the buttons across the top of the viewer.

## 9. National Archives Database - Nationell ArkivDatabas (NAD)

Lastly, you need to be aware of National Archives Database (Nationell ArkivDatabas, NAD) which is the online catalog for the National Archives of Sweden. To find this, you can search in Google “**Nationell ArkivDatabas (NAD)**” or click on the tab called **National Archives Database** at the top of the **Digital Research Room** page. Direct link: <https://sok.riksarkivet.se/nad>

On this page you will see 4 tabs, **Search archives**, **Search places**, **Search archival institutions**, and **Att medverka i NAD**. You will use the two first tabs **Search archives** and **Search places** the most.

### a. Search archives

This provides a list of collections, records, volumes, and documents that are on the shelf in the National Archives of Sweden. For example, to see an entire parish archive, type the name of the parish in the **Search archives** field (use the Swedish letters Å, Ä, and Ö if needed) and click **Search**. Click on the **name of the parish kyrkoarkiv** with the laptop image. Find the record type and click on the volume you need. Click on the grey link with the words **Reproducerad på** and then on **Image**. If there is no grey link, then the item is only available in the reading room at the archive.

### b. Search places

This is the Topographical Register at the Swedish National Archives (TORA). It is a database of places with the associated record creators, primarily administrative areas, and information about historical origin. For example, type in the name of a parish in the **Name** field and click **Search**. Then click on the link that has the name of the parish by the word **församling** (which means congregation). After the page reloads, scroll down to see jurisdictional information such as the **Pastorat** (chapelry), **Stift** (Diocese), **Län** (County), and **Härad** (judicial district) among others.